

Application No. 09/385,299

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method of accessing an information system using a portable access device, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a communication protocol associated with a first network server;

attempting, by a portable access device, to establish a communication link between the portable access device and said first network server using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol, wherein said one of a plurality of communication media is selected from the group consisting of: a local wireless LAN, a remote wireless LAN, a wireline LAN, and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); and

capturing data in a memory location in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server further comprises the following steps:

searching an internal database for a communication protocol associated with the first network server; and

retrieving said communication protocol from the internal database.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server further comprises the following steps:

searching an internal database for a communication protocol associated with a first network server;

transmitting from a portable access device to a second network server, a request to access said first network server when said communication protocol cannot be found in said internal database; and

retrieving a communication protocol associated with said first network server from said second network server.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said step of transmitting a request from a portable access device to a second network server is further comprised of the following steps:

transmitting a signal from a portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting said portable access device to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

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5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of attempting to establish a communication link with said first network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol;
verifying the availability of said communication medium; and
initiating communication between said portable access device and said network server along said communication medium.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps:

transmitting a signal from said portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;
transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and
connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

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7. (Original) A method of accessing an information system using a portable access device, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request from a portable access device to access a network server;
- identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server;
- transmitting said communication protocol to said portable access device; and
- establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said network server using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol, wherein said one of a plurality of communication media is selected from the group consisting of: local wireless LAN, remote wireless LAN, wireline LAN, and Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of configuring said portable access device to capture data in memory in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

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9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said network device further comprises the following steps:

accessing a central database;

searching said central database for a communication protocol associated with said network server; and

retrieving said communication protocol.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said step of establishing communication between said portable access device and said network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media in accordance with said communication protocol;

verifying the availability of said communication medium; and

initiating communication between said portable access device and said network server using one of said communication media.

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11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps:

- transmitting a signal to a local wireless LAN transceiver;
- transmitting a second signal to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and
- connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

12. (Original) A method of accessing an information system using a portable access device, the method comprising the steps of:

- transmitting from a portable access device to a first network server, a request to access a second network server;
- receiving said request at said first network server;
- identifying a communication protocol associated with said second network server;
- transmitting said communication protocol from said first network server to said portable access device; and
- establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said second network server using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol, wherein said one of a plurality of communication media is selected from the group consisting of: local wireless LAN, remote wireless LAN, wireline LAN, and Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

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13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of configuring said portable access device to capture data in memory in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of transmitting from a portable access device to a first network server is further comprised of the following steps:
transmitting a signal from a portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;
transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting said portable access device to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said first network server further comprises the following steps:

accessing a central database; and

retrieving a communication protocol that corresponds to said first network server.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said first network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media in accordance with said communication protocol;
verifying the availability of a communication medium; and
initiating communication between said portable access device and said second network server along said communication medium.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps:

transmitting a signal to a local wireless LAN transceiver;
transmitting a second signal to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and
connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

18-29. (Canceled)

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30. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for accessing an information system comprising an access device and a plurality of network servers, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a communication protocol associated with a first network server;

attempting, by a portable access device, to establish a communication link between the a portable access device and said first network server using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol, wherein said one of a plurality of communication media is selected from the group consisting of: a local wireless LAN, a remote wireless LAN, a wireline LAN, and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); and

capturing data in a memory location in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 30 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server further comprises the following steps:

searching an internal database for a communication protocol associated with the first network server; and

retrieving said communication protocol from the internal database.

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32. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 30 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with a first network server further comprises the following steps:

searching an internal database for a communication protocol associated with a first network server;

transmitting from a portable access device to a second network server, a request to access said first network server when said communication protocol cannot be found in said internal database; and

retrieving a communication protocol corresponding to said first network server from said second network server.

33. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 32 wherein said step of transmitting a request from a portable access device to a second network server is further comprised of the following steps:

transmitting a signal from a portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting said portable access device to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

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34. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 30 wherein said step of attempting to establish a communication link with said first network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol;

verifying the availability of said communication medium; and

initiating communication between said portable access device and said first network server along said communication medium.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps:

transmitting a signal from said portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

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36. (Original) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for accessing an information system comprising an access device and a plurality of network servers, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request from a portable access device to access a network server;
- identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server;
- transmitting said communication protocol to said portable access device; and
- establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said network server using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol, wherein said one of a plurality of communication media is selected from the group consisting of: local wireless LAN, remote wireless LAN, wireline LAN, and Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 further comprising the step of configuring said portable access device to capture data in memory in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

38. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said network device further comprises the following steps:

- accessing a central database;
- searching said central database for a communication protocol associated with said network server; and
- retrieving said communication protocol.

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39. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein said step of establishing communication between said portable access device and said network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media in accordance with said communication protocol;
verifying the availability of said communication medium; and
initiating communication between said portable access device and said network server using one of said communication media.

40. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 39 wherein said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps:

transmitting a signal to a local wireless LAN transceiver;
transmitting a second signal to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and
connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

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41. (Original) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for accessing an information system comprising an access device and a plurality of network servers, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting from a portable access device to a first network server, a request to access a second network server;

receiving said request at said first network server;

identifying a communication protocol associated with said second network server;

transmitting said communication protocol to said portable access device; and

establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said second network server using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol.

42. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 further comprising the step of configuring said portable access device to capture data in memory in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

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43. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein said step of transmitting from a portable access device to a first network server is further comprised of the following steps:

transmitting a signal from a portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting said portable access device to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

44. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said first network server further comprises the following steps:

accessing a central database; and

retrieving a communication protocol that corresponds to said first network server.

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45. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein said step of establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said first network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media in accordance with said communication protocol;
verifying the availability of a communication medium; and
initiating communication between said portable access device and said second network server along said communication medium.

46. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps:

transmitting a signal to a local wireless LAN transceiver;
transmitting a second signal to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and
connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.